

Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority



City of Lake Elsinore • City of Canyon Lake • County of Riverside
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District • Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Information Meeting Encourages Community Involvement

Upcoming Canyon Lake alum application public information and outreach meeting welcomes community

Canyon Lake, CA – Over the past two and a half years, the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Task Force has made significant strides in improving water quality in Canyon Lake through an alum treatment application. The fifth and final application, of this initial program, will take place from September 21-24. A public information and outreach meeting will take place on September 9, at 7:00 p.m. at Canyon Lake City Hall in the Council Chambers.

“Historically, Canyon Lake has been known to suffer from algae blooms. Because of nitrogen and phosphorus that enters the lake through water runoff, the lake suffers from an excess amount of nutrients. These nutrients encourage algae growth,” shared Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority administrator Mark Norton. “When the alum is added to the lake it immediately binds to the phosphorus, which reduces the opportunity for algae growth.”

The public information and outreach meeting is intended to serve as a community workshop with panel experts, including Dr. Michael Anderson from the University of California Riverside, who has been studying the effects of the alum treatments in Canyon Lake. Residents will find out more information on how the overall quality and clarity of the water has improved, in addition to asking questions.

“The meeting is designed to encourage community involvement and keep Canyon Lake residents informed,” stated Ariel Hall, interim city manager. “We welcome residents to take an interest in what happens in Canyon Lake and hear more from the panel of experts.”

Following the fifth alum treatment, a preliminary report will be compiled to suggest next steps in improving conditions in Canyon Lake. While algae cannot be entirely eliminated, the alum applications have been proven effective and possible future alum treatments will likely be suggested.

Funding for the alum applications has been provided by a state grant and by the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Task Force, which consists of cities, the County of Riverside, agriculture and dairy coalitions and other organizations in the San Jacinto River watershed. Implementation of the alum project is being coordinated by the City of Canyon Lake, the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, LESJWA, the TMDL Task Force and the Canyon Lake Property Owners Association.

LESJWA is a joint powers authority entrusted with state and local funds to improve water quality and wildlife habitats in Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake and the surrounding San Jacinto watershed. For more information about LESJWA, please visit www.mywatersheds.com.